

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 7, 2004 was received and carefully reviewed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below.

Claims 1-70 were pending prior to the instant amendment. By this amendment, new claims 71-102 are added in order to recite additional features of the present invention to which Applicants are entitled. Consideration and allowance of these claims are now respectfully requested.

Initially, it is requested that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on July 17, 2003 and April 1, 2004, as provided in the Request for Acknowledgment filed on April 14, 2004. In addition, acknowledgment is requested of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 17, 2004, as well as the Information Disclosure Statement filed simultaneously herewith.

It is acknowledged with appreciation the objection to claims 5, 14, 23, 32, 40, 48, 57 and 66 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. It is also noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

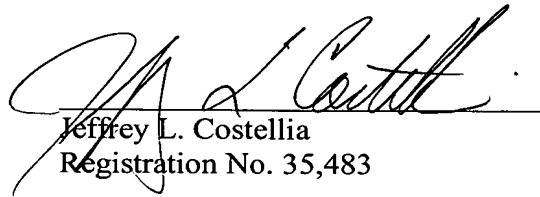
Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-22, 24-31, 33-39, 41-47, 49-56, 58-65 and 67-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Miyawaki et al. (U.S. 5,644,370). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons advanced below. Specifically, the subject application claims priority of Japanese Application No. 5-23289 (the '289 priority application), having a filing date of January 18, 1993. On the other hand, the effective filing date of U.S. Patent No. 5,644,370 for Section 102(e) purposes is January 28, 1993. As a result, the '370 should be removed as a reference against the instant application. Applicants intend to file a verified translation of the '289 priority application and will do so in a supplement to the instant amendment to perfect priority in the instant application.

New claims 71-102 are added to recite additional features of the present invention to which Applicants are entitled. Consideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1-70 be allowed, that new claims

71-102 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue upon the perfection of priority in the instant application. If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey L. Costellia
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900, 401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
(202) 585-8000